

Name _____ Period _____

Predator/Prey Balances

20 pts

Introduction:

The snowshoe hare is an herbivore while the lynx is a carnivore and predator of the hare. These predators and prey help to keep each other's populations balanced in an ecosystem.

Data:

Time elapsed (years)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28
Snowshoe Hare Pelts (thousands)	20	55	65	95	55	5	15	50	75	20	25	50	70	30	15
Canada Lynx Pelts (hundreds)	10	15	55	60	20	15	10	60	60	10	5	25	40	25	5

Results: (10 pts)

On the provided graph paper, create ONE line graph which shows the number of hare pelts AND lynx pelts versus time elapsed.

- Title your graph
- Label your axes
 - (Note: Time will be on the x-axis.)
- Number your scales with equal intervals
- Plot the data
- Connect to form 2 different lines
 - You will need a **key** to distinguish between the two lines (hare and lynx).
Also be sure to indicate if the # of pelts is in the hundreds or thousands.

Questions: (2 pts each)

1. As the hare population increases, the lynx population _____.

Explain why you think this happens.

2. After the hare and lynx populations increase, the hare population _____.

Explain why you think this happens.

3. As the hare population decreases, the lynx population _____.

Explain why you think this happens.

4. After the hare and lynx populations decrease, the hare population _____.

Explain why you think this happens.

5. What other factors do you think could affect the hare and lynx populations?

Explain how they would increase and/or decrease those populations.